

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 05666 301043Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 /077 W

----- 014676

R 300900Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1334

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

DIA

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI PINT PO

SUBJ: AFM SUPERIOR COUNCIL REAFFIRMS NON-PARTISAN

POSITION OF MOVEMENT

1. SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT -- ALSO KNOWN AS COUNCIL OF 20 -- HELD WEEKLY MEETING DECEMBER 21. PURPOSE OF SESSION, ACCORDING TO PRESS, WAS TO DISCUSS RELATIONS BETWEEN AFM AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES. AFTER MEETING COUNCIL RELEASED FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE:

2. "THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT REMAINS FIRMLY DISPOSED TO GUARANTEE ESTABLISHMENT OF PLURALISTIC DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL.

3. "THE SOCIETY WHICH WE SEEK FOR ALL, AND NOT JUST SOME OF US, AND WHICH WE ARE TRYING TO CONSTRUCT, DEMANDS THAT STATE TAKE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, CORRECTING THE GLARING DISPARITIES CURRENTLY EXISTING IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF NATIONAL WEALTH.

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PAGE 02 LISBON 05666 301043Z

4. "ALL DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL GROUPS WHICH DEFEND THIS OBJECTIVE ARE ACCEPTED BY THE AFM REGARDLESS OF THE MEANS THEY ADVOCATE TO REACH THIS END, AS LONG AS SUCH MEANS ESCHEW VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM IN ANY FORM.

5. "THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT, NOTING THAT SOME POLITICAL GROUPS ABUSIVELY CLAIM TO BE THE ONLY INTERPRETERS OF AFM THINKING AND EVEN GO SO FAR AS TO SOLELY IDENTIFY THEIR PROGRAM WITH AFM PROGRAM, RESTATES;  
--"COMPLETE NON-PARTISAN NATURE OF THE AFM;  
--"THE NON-PARTISAN STANCE OF AFM AS INTERPRETER OF THE WILL AND DESIRES OF PORTUGUESE PEOPLE;  
--"THAT AFM IS NOT COMPROMISED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY OR MOVEMENT;  
--"AFM SUPPORT FOR ALL ANTI-FASCIST FORCES, ALTHOUGH NOT ASSOCIATING ITSELF WITH ANY OF THESE FORCES SINCE FORMS OF DEMOCRATIC EXPRESSION ARE MULTIPLE; ALL FORMS ARE NECESSARY AND SHOULD COEXIST IN TRANSLATING A VARIETY OF OPINIONS INTO THE PRACTICE OF LIBERTY.

6. "THE COUNCIL OF 20 ALSO GIVES ITS GENERAL APPROVAL TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAM DRAFTED BY A GOVERNMENTAL TEAM LED BY MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO MAJOR MELO ANTUNES, AND HAS BEGUN DISCUSSION ON THE SPECIFICS OF THAT DOCUMENT".

7. COMMENT: IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT TIRGGERED THE COUNCIL OF TWENTY, PERHAPS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL OF THE VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS IN AFM HIERARCHY, TO REITERATE POLITICAL NON-ALIGNMENT OF MOVEMENT. WE SUSPECT HOWEVER THAT COMMUNIQUE MEANT TO BE SHARP SLAP ON WRISTS OF MDP, WHICH SINCE ITS METAMORPHOSIS INTO A PARTY HAS TRIED TO PORTRAY ITSELF AS TRUE AND MOST FAITHFUL SUPPORTER OF AFM. (IT MAY BE THAT THIS IS ALSO INDIRECT ADMONISHMENT OF PRIME MINISTER, WHOSE COZINESS WITH MDP AND SYMPATHY TOWARDS ITS PROGRAM BECOMING MORE EVIDENT AS TIME PASSES). IT IS ENCOURAGING TO SEE THAT AS ELECTIONS APPROACH SUPERIOR COUNCIL FORMALLY GUARANTIES POLITICAL PLURALISM IN PORTUGAL. THIS IN PRACTICE MEANS THAT AFM HAS IN EFFECT LEGITIMIZED THE CONSERVATIVE CDS, A PARTY WHICH HAS BEEN UNDER CONSISTENT VERBAL AND PHYSICAL ATTACK BY FAR LEFT GROUPS ATTEMPTING TO HOUND IT OUT OF EXISTENCE.

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PAGE 03 LISBON 05666 301043Z

8. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT GOP WILL BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES THAN IN PAST. ALL PARTIES, INCLUDING CDS, RECOGNIZE NEED FOR GOVERNMENTAL INTERVENTION IN CERTAIN SECTORS OF ECONOMY TO REVITALIZE SAGGING ECONOMY AND CORRECT OBVIOUS SOCIAL INJUSTICES WHICH PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT DID LITTLE OR NOTHING TO ALLEVIATE. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THAT AFM HAS DECIDED TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO ITS PROGRAM WHICH ESCHEWS RADICAL

STRUCTURAL ECONOMIC CHANGES BEFORE ELECTIONS. JUDGING FROM  
LEAKS TO PRESS OF MAIN FEATURES OF MELO ANTUNES SHORT TERM  
(THREE YEARS) ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY PROGRAM, THAT SO CALLED  
"EMERGENCY ECONOMIC PLAN" IS REMARKABLY MODERATE AND TECHNOCRATIC.  
COUNCIL OF TWENTY SUPPORT FOR GENERAL ORIENTATION OF THAT  
DOCUMENT, WHICH NOW UNDER DISCUSSION IN CABINET, IS FURTHER  
EVIDENCE THAT CENTRIST FORCES IN ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT ARE NOT  
SUBSERVIENT TO LEFTIST ELEMENTS.

9. COUNCIL OF TWENTY, WHOSE ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS ARE  
DESCRIBED IN DAO LISBON IR 6 879 0343 74, APPEARS TO BE TAKING  
POLICY DECISIONS WHICH ARE BASICALLY MORE CONSERVATIVE THAN  
THOSE ESPOUSED BY COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF ARMED FORCES  
PROGRAM AND ITS BULLETIN MOVIMENTO. THESE DECISIONS MAY IN  
FACT BE MORE ACCURATE REFLECTION OF SENTIMENT IN MOVEMENT  
THAN OPINIONS OF COORDINATING COMMITTEE.  
SCOTT

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